

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 00798 031548Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00

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P R 030947Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4473

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, SP

SUBJ: RECENT AND FORTHCOMING DEVELOPMENTS RE UGT AND USO

REF: (A) MADRID 0272, (B) PARIS 2341

BEGIN SUMMARY: ACTIVITIES OF BOTH ILLEGAL SPANISH SOCIALIST UGT

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PAGE 02 MADRID 00798 031548Z

AND CATHOLIC-ORIENTED USO, INCLUDE A) FORTHCOMING VISITS

TO SPAIN BY IG METALL'S LODERER, BY FRENCH CFDT, BY GERMAN DGB, AND POSSIBLY BY AMERICAN UAW'S WOODCOCK; B) ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK OF UGT DELEGATION AT MEETING IN LONDON WITH TUC MEMBERS, WHERE UGT IS GOING TO PROTEST TUC'S BIAS TOWARDS COMMUNIST-DOMINATED SPANISH WORKERS COMMISSIONS (SWC); C) SIGNIFICANT MEETING OF TWO USO LEADERS WITH SYNDICAL MINISTER AND SSO CHIEF MARTIN VILLA; AND D) CLEVER MANEUVER BY UGT TO SIDETRACK SWC APPLICATION FOR ENTRY INTO ETUC. END SUMMARY.

1. SOCIALIST UGT LEADER PABLO CASTELLANO TOLD EMBOFF SEVERAL FOREIGN TRADE UNION VISITS TO SPAIN ARE EXPECTED SOON, I.E. A) IG METALL PRES EUGEN LODERER ACCOMPANIED BY IMF SEC GEN HERMAN REBHAN (REF A) ON FEB 5-7; B) FRENCH CFDT DELEGATION IN EARLY FEB; C) GERMAN DGB DELEGATION (POSSIBLY LED BY DGB PRES VETTER). MOST PROBABLY IN MARCH; AND SURPRISINGLY, D) AMERICAN UAW PRES LEONARD WOODCOCK AT AN AS YET UNSPECIFIED DATE (CASTELLANO SAID IMF'S REBHAN HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN PERSUADING WOODCOCK OF DESIRABILITY OF VISITING SPAIN, AND THAT UGT, AT REBHAN'S URGING, HAD RECENTLY SENT WOODCOCK FORMAL INVITATION).

2. CASTELLANO SAID HE IS LEADING 3-MAN UGT EXEC COMMITTEE DELEGATION TO LONDON FEB 1 TO MEET WITH SOME MEMBERS OF BRITISH TUC EXEC COMMITTEE. THIS MEETING WAS SPECIALLY REQUESTED BY UGT, AND CASTELLANO EXPECTS IT WILL RESULT IN OPEN UGT CONFRONTATION WITH TUC OVER LATTER'S SPANISH POLICIES. SPECIFICALLY, UGT WILL STRONGLY PROTEST TUC'S OPEN PARTIALITY TO PCE-DOMINATED SPANISH WORKERS COMMISSIONS (SWC) AT EXPENSE THEIR FELLOW SPANISH SOCIALIST UGT TRADE UNIONISTS. UGT IS PARTICULARLY ANGERED BY TWO THINGS: A) THE SUPPORT WHICH TUC IS GIVING FOR APPLICATION OF SWC FOR ETUC ENTRY; AND B) REPORTS THAT SEVERAL PROMINENT TUC LEADERS, INCLUDING HUGH SCANLON, JACK JONES, AND KEN GILL, HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SPONSORING A SCHEDULED MID-FEBRUARY CONFERENCE ON SPAIN IN LONDON, WHICH BRITISH ORGANIZERS REPORTEDLY HAVE INVITED LEADING SPANISH COMMUNIST SWC LEADERS MARCE LINO CAMACHO AND NICOLAS SARTORIUS TO ADDRESS. CASTELLANO LAMENTED THAT TUC FAVORITISM FOR SWC HAD INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY AS RESULT OF ESTABLISHMENT A YEAR AGO OF AN SWC PERMANENT OFFICE IN LONDON BY SPANISH COMMUNIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 00798 031548Z

VICENTE LLAMAZARES, AND HE COMPLAINED THAT UGT COULD NOT EVEN FINANCIALLY AFFORD TO OPEN ANY OFFICE OF ITS OWN IN LONDON AND THAT TUC, UNLIKE SOCIALIST TRADE UNIONS IN FRANCE AND GERMANY, HAD NEVER OFFERED UGT OFFICE SPACE OR OTHER FACILITIES IN BRITAIN.

3. CATHOLIC-ORIENTED USO HAS ALSO BEEN ACTIVE. IN ADDITION TO RECENT PARIS PRESS CONFERENCE BY YOUNG USO SEC GEN, BILBAO

WORKER JOSE MARIA ZUBIAUR (REF B), USO LAST WEEK CAUSED MINOR SENSATION AFTER PRESS REPORTED TWO USO REPS HAD DINNER WITH NEW AND MORE LIBERAL CHIEF OF GOVT-CONTROLLED SSO, THE SYNDICAL MINISTER MARTIN VILLA. USO EXEC COMMITTEE MEMBER AGAPITO RAMOS TOLD EMBOFF MEETING WAS AT INITIATIVE OF MARTIN VILLA, AND USO ACCEPTED INVITATION MAINLY OUT OF CURIOSITY. MINISTER ASKED FOR A TRUCE ON STRIKE AND LABOR FRONT AND ASKED USO FOR IDEAS ON SSO REFORM, BUT USO REJECTED ANY TRUCE AND TOLD MARTIN VILLA MERE REFORM OF SSO WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT AND THAT COMPLETE TRADE UNION FREEDOMS WERE NECESSARY. ON OTHER HAND, UGT'S CASTELLANO SAID UGT HAS NOT MET WITH ANY SSO LEADERS, DESPITE SSO OVETURES, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT EXCLUDE THIS POSSIBILITY IF CONDITIONS CHANGED.

4. CASTELLANO CONFIRMED USO'S APPLICATION FOR ETUC ENTRY CONTINUES BE BLOCKED BY UGT. CASTELLANO ALSO SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY ABLE TO RECENTLY SIDETRACK SWC EFFORTS TO SEEK ETUC ENTRY BY TELLING ETUC UGT HAD NO OBJECTION BUT THAT THERE WERE NUNE DIFFERENT SWC'S INSIDE SPAIN AND ETUC WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO ADMIT NINE DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS, EACH USING NAME OF SWC, INTO ETUC. CASTELLANO THEN SUPPLIED ETUC WITH DETAILED LISTING OF EIGHT OTHER SWC'S, IN ADDITION TO MAINSTREAM PCE-DOMINATED SWC. THIS HAD THROWN ISSUE INTO CONFUSION, AND EARNED CASTELLANO EMUNITY OF PCE.

5. COMMENT: USO MEETING WITH MARTIN VILLA WAS SIGNIFICANT AS FIRST ENCOUNTER OF A TOP SSO LEADER WITH REPS OF ANY SPANISH OPPOSITION LABOR GROUP. CONTINUED FOREIGN TRADE UNION VISITS REDOUND TO BENEFIT OF UGT AND USE, ONLY DEMOCRATIC ILLEGAL TRADE UNIONS CAPABLE OF COMPETING AGAINST COMMUNIST-DOMINATED SWC.

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